

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace the first sheet of drawings containing Figs. 1 and 2 with the replacement sheet submitted in the Appendix to this Amendment. A “redline” is also attached showing changes to Fig. 1 relative to the first sheet as originally filed.

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for not being statutory. Claims 1-6 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by a system described on pages 1-4 of the application (Applicants' Admitted Prior Art, or AAPA). Claim 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in light of Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) and Mockapetritis RFC 1035 (RFC). Claims 1-10 have been cancelled, and the rejections are moot.

New claims 13-23 have been added. No new search is believed to be required. To assist with examination, Applicants provide the following remarks, which are not intended to define claim terms or limit the scope of the claims literally, equivalently or otherwise.

The invention relates to services for looking up network addresses that correspond to common names. For example, a mail server might have a common name “example.com” but have a numeric Internet Protocol network address of the form “xxxx.yy.zz.abc.” If a user intends to seek an HTML web page but mistypes the name or is mistaken as to the name, a primary domain name system (DNS) server as described on pages 1-4 of the application (AAPA) might be unable to locate a corresponding network address and might return a negative response indicating that no network address is available. For example, the malformed name presented to the AAPA DNS server might be unassigned. A negative response that merely states that no network address is available is unhelpful for the user, because it gives the user no guidance in deciding what to do next in his/her search.

In the example of Fig. 6, an exemplary, improved domain name service returns a helpful referral response under circumstances where an AAPA DNS server would have returned an

unhelpful negative response. The domain name service does so by initiating a further process of evaluating the query to determine additional information (other than the name itself) about the nature of the address being sought. Queries contain information beyond merely the request name. *See, e.g.,* pages 1-2 of the application, “DNS allows many different kinds of information to be stored . . . , and the query type allows the client to choose which type of information they require”. *See also* page 8 which incorporates by reference RFC’s 1034, 1035, 1124 and 2101. Based on additional information in the query, the domain name service may “synthesize” and return to the user a referral request which points to a helpful website. *See, e.g.,* page 8, “The [synthesized] IP address may be a web site which prompts a user for different spellings of his typed domain, it may offer to sell him the domain, or it may be some other kind of service.” The application refers to such a referral address as “configured value.” *See* the last sentence of the paragraph bridging pages 8-9, “Otherwise, a synthesized response is produced at 50 which contains a set of configured values, namely, an IP address to which the client is directed.” Because the synthesized response is generated when the service was unable to find a network address corresponding to the request name, it should be clear that the referral address does not normally correspond to the request name. The domain name service may, for example, maintain a set of predetermined referral sites. Then, when a name search fails to locate a corresponding network address, the domain name service selects one of the predetermined referral sites and returns a referral response that points to the selected, predetermined site. While the address of the referral response might not be one that the user expected, the response can be helpful nonetheless.

Since the inception of the Internet, DNS servers have been relatively “dumb” processes that return negative responses in many circumstances. Users suffered by receiving such

unhelpful responses, because such responses provided little information to advance the user's search for a network address. The inventors describe an improved system that instead returns a more helpful response selected according to other information contained in the user's query. Solving such a long-felt but unsatisfied need is an indicia of non-obviousness under the *Graham v. John Deere* analysis.

Fig. 1 has been revised to conform to the written description on page 6 of the application.

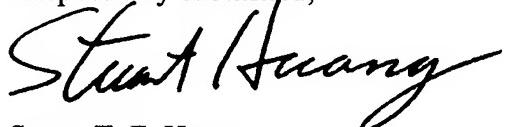
No new matter has been added.

This application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. However, if the application is not deemed in condition for allowance, the undersigned attorney requests an opportunity for a personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any missing or insufficient fee(s) or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-4293 (Case No. 14723.0001).

Date: July 18, 2007

Respectfully submitted,



Stuart T. F. Huang
Reg. No 34,184
Steptoe & Johnson, LLP
1330 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: (202) 429-3000
Fax: (202) 429-3902

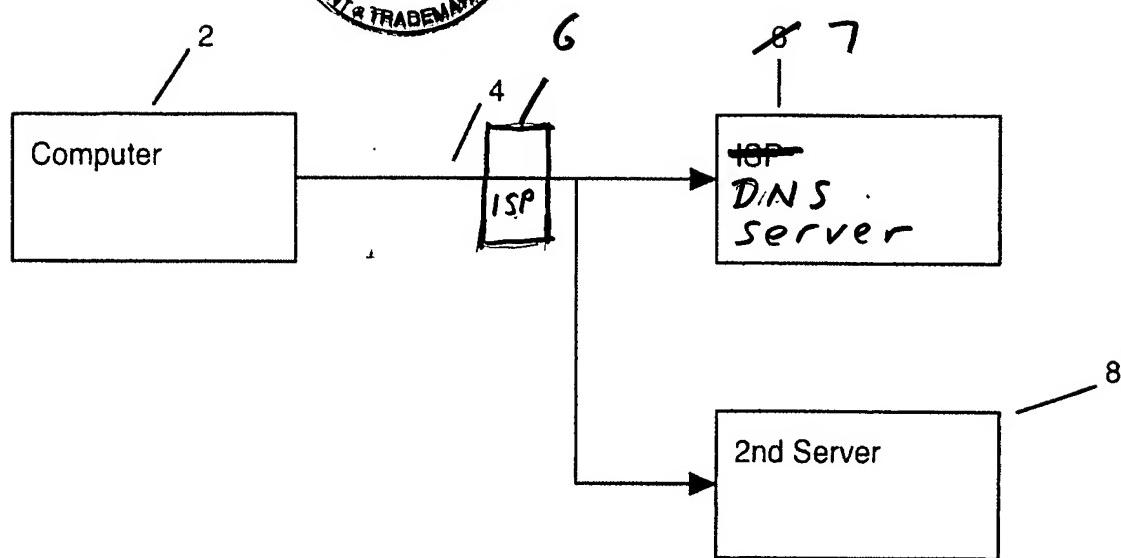


Figure 1

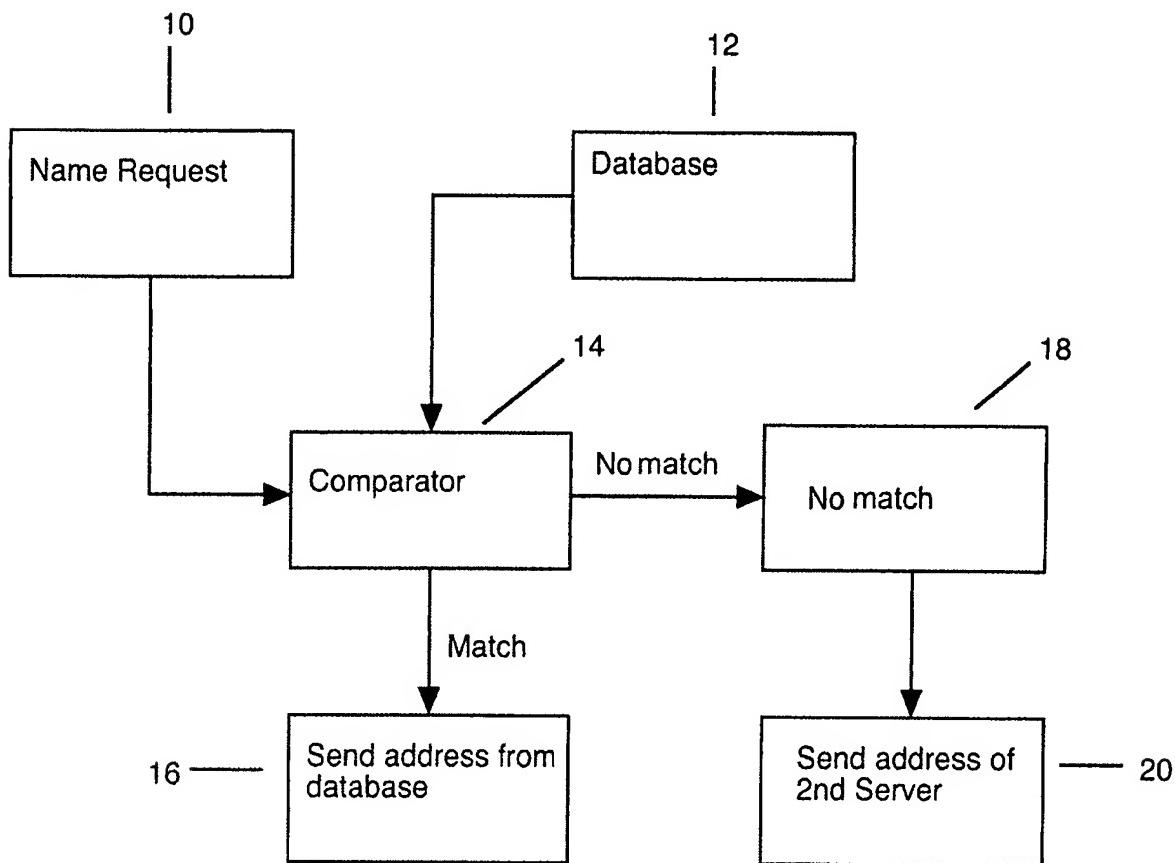


Figure 2



PATENT APPLICATION
Attorney Docket No. 14723.0001

APPENDIX A